Laying of roads and development of watersheds in villages

*149. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether schemes relating to laying of roads and development of watersheds in villages are decided by Union Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not consulting the State Governments to accord priority in their development?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) and (b) The Rural Roads projects under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana are formulated by the State Governments, keeping in view the Guidelines issued under the Programme. The projects are executed by the State authorities, after clearance of the same in the Government of India.

Projects relating to Watersheds are covered under three Programmes viz. the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and the Desert Development Programme (DDP). Under the IWDP, the projects are sanctioned by the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, after their prioritization in consultation with the concerned State Governments. As regards the DPAP and the DDP, the Government of India decide the number of new projects to be sanctioned to a Programme District, keeping in view the Annual Budget Allocation as well as the performance of the District in the execution of ongoing Watershed Projects. The exact location of the projects is determined by the concerned DRDAs/Zilla Panchayats, in consultation with the State Governments.

Blaming of BSF for intrusion into Bangladesh Territory

*150. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bangladesh has squarely blamed the BSF for intruding into Bangladesh Territory and for the recent border incident leading to the death of BSF personnel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;